

**What is claimed is:**

1. A multi-path searching device comprising:  
a despread unit for despread received I and Q signals;  
5 an accumulator for accumulating the I and Q signals;  
a beam-forming unit for beam-forming the I and Q signals;  
an energy detecting unit for detecting a larger energy value between the  
energy values of the I and Q signals respectively; and  
a control unit for comparing the larger energy value with a threshold and  
10 setting a corresponding signal of the larger energy value as a decision variable, if the  
larger energy value is greater than the threshold.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the beam-forming unit comprises a  
plurality of beam-forming means.
- 15 3. The device of claim 2, comprising a plurality of antennas, wherein  
the beam-forming unit comprises as many beam-forming means as the plurality of  
antennas.
- 20 4. The device of claim 2, wherein the beam-forming means is a  
switched beam-forming means.
5. The device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of beam-forming  
means are arranged in parallel.
- 25 6. The device of claim 2, wherein each of the beam-forming means

comprises a plurality of fixed-beam beam formers.

7. The device of claim 3, wherein each of the beam-forming means comprises a plurality of fixed-beam beam formers, wherein number of the plurality of fixed-beam formers is approximately equal to number of antennas.

8. The device of claim 6, wherein at least one of the fixed-beam beam formers outputs a beam-formed I signal by adding a value obtained from multiplying an accumulated I signal by a predetermined weight vector for an I signal to a value obtained by multiplying an accumulated Q signal by a predetermined weight vector for a Q signal.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein at least one of the fixed-beam beam formers outputs a beam-formed Q signal by adding a value obtained from multiplying the accumulated I signal by a predetermined weight vector for a Q signal to a value obtained by multiplying the accumulated Q signal by a predetermined weight vector for an I signal.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein at least one of the fixed-beam beam formers obtains said beam-formed I signal  $b_I^{(X,p-1)}$  and said beam-formed Q signal  $b_Q^{(X,p-1)}$  based on the following:

$$b_I^{(X,p-1)} = Y_I \times W_I^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) + Y_Q \times W_Q^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) \quad ; (X = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, P-1)$$

$$b_Q^{(X,p-1)} = Y_I \times W_Q^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) + Y_Q \times W_I^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) \quad ; (X = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, P-1)$$

, wherein the  $W_I^{(X,p-1)}(\theta)$  denotes a weight vector for an I signal of X<sup>th</sup> fixed-

beam beam former included  $P^{\text{th}}$  beam-forming means, and the  $W_{\varrho}^{*(X,p-1)}(\theta)$  denotes a weight vector for a Q signal of  $X^{\text{th}}$  fixed-beam beam former included  $P^{\text{th}}$  beam-forming means.

5            11.      The device of claim 8, wherein at least one of the beam-forming means respectively adds the beam-formed I signals and the beam-formed Q signals outputted from the fixed-beam beam formers to respectively produce an added I signal and an added Q signal.

10           12.      The device of claim 11, wherein in said at least one beam-forming means respectively outputs the added I signal and the added Q signal.

13.      A multi-path searching method comprising:  
despreading received I and Q signals;  
15      accumulating the despread I and Q signals respectively;  
splitting the despread I/Q signals by a plurality of beam-forming means;  
performing a beam-forming for the split I/Q signals;  
detecting energy of the beam-formed signals to find a largest energy value;  
comparing the detected largest energy value with a threshold; and  
20      setting a corresponding signal of the largest energy value as a decision variable, if the largest energy value is greater than the threshold.

14.      The method of claim 13, wherein the I and Q signals are received via a plurality of antennas, and wherein the number of the beam-forming means is  
25      approximately equal to the number of the antennas.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of beam-forming means are arranged in parallel.

5 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the beam-forming means is a switched beam-forming means.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein each of the beam-forming means includes a plurality of fixed-beam beam formers.

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18. The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the beam-forming means comprises approximately same number of fixed-beam beam formers as that of the number of antennas.

15 19. The method of claim 17, wherein each of the fixed-beam beam formers outputs a beam-formed I signal by adding a value obtained by multiplying the accumulated I signal by a predetermined weight vector for an I signal to a value obtained by multiplying the accumulated Q signal by a predetermined weight vector for a Q signal.

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20. The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of the fixed-beam beam formers outputs a beam-formed Q signal by adding a value obtained by multiplying the accumulated I signal by a predetermined weight vector for a Q signal to a value obtained by multiplying the accumulated Q signal by a predetermined weight vector for an I signal.

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21. The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of the beam-forming means respectively adds the beam-formed I signals and the beam-formed Q signals outputted from the fixed-beam beam formers.

5 22. The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the beam-forming means respectively outputs the added I signal and the added Q signal.

23. A multi-path searching device comprising:  
a despreading unit for despreading received I and Q signals;  
10 an accumulator for accumulating the I and Q signals;  
a beam-forming unit comprising a plurality of beam-forming means each comprising a plurality of fixed-beam beam formers for beam-forming the I and Q signals;  
an energy detecting unit for detecting a larger energy value between the  
15 energy values of the I and Q signals respectively; and  
a control unit for comparing the larger energy value with a threshold and setting a corresponding signal of the larger energy value as a decision variable, if the larger energy value is greater than the threshold.

20 24. The multi-path searching device of claim 23, wherein at least one of the fixed-beam beam formers outputs a beam-formed I signal by adding a first value to a second value.

25 25. The multi-path searching device of claim 24, wherein the first value is obtained by multiplying an accumulated I signal by a predetermined weight vector for an I signal.

26. The multi-path searching device of claim 24, wherein the second value is obtained by multiplying an accumulated Q signal by a predetermined weight vector for a Q signal

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27. The multi-path searching device of claim 23, wherein at least one of the fixed-beam beam formers outputs a beam-formed Q signal by adding a third value to a fourth value.

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28. The multi-path searching device of claim 27, wherein the third value is obtained by multiplying the accumulated I signal by a predetermined weight vector for a Q signal.

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29. The multi-path searching device of claim 27, wherein the fourth value is obtained by multiplying the accumulated Q signal by a predetermined weight vector for an I signal.

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30. The multi-path searching device of claim 23, wherein at least one of the fixed-beam beam formers obtains a beam-formed I signal  $b_I^{(X,p-1)}$  and a beam-formed Q signal  $b_Q^{(X,p-1)}$  based on the following:

$$b_I^{(X,p-1)} = Y_I \times W_I^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) + Y_Q \times W_Q^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) ; (X = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, P-1)$$

$$b_Q^{(X,p-1)} = Y_I \times W_Q^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) + Y_Q \times W_I^{(X,p-1)}(\theta) ; (X = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, P-1),$$

wherein the  $W_I^{(X,p-1)}(\theta)$  denotes a weight vector for an I signal of X<sup>th</sup> fixed-beam beam former included P<sup>th</sup> beam-forming means, and the  $W_Q^{(X,p-1)}(\theta)$  denotes

a weight vector for a Q signal of  $X^{\text{th}}$  fixed-beam beam former included  $P^{\text{th}}$  beam-forming means.